

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wheel assembly, comprising:
 - a first rotating member having an exterior surface;
 - a visual element disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said first rotating member, said visual element having an outer perimeter; and
 - a second member mounted to rotate adjacent said first rotating member, said second member defining an opening having an outer perimeter, wherein said first rotating member and said second member are adapted to be moved between,
 - a first position in which said outer perimeter of said opening does not substantially align with said outer perimeter of said visual element; and
 - a home position wherein said outer perimeter of said opening is substantially aligned with said outer perimeter of said visual element.
2. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first rotating member is a wheel.
3. The wheel assembly of Claim 2, wherein said second member is a wheel spinner.
4. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member is a wheel spinner.
5. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first rotating member is a substantially planar element configured to engage a wheel such that said first rotating member and said wheel rotate in unison.
6. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first rotating member is a substantially planar element that is mounted, via a bearing, to rotate adjacent a wheel.

7. The wheel assembly of Claim 6, wherein said first rotating member is configured to maintain a substantially fixed radial orientation despite relative rotation of said wheel.

8. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein:
said visual element is a first visual element, and
said wheel assembly further comprises a second visual element disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said first rotating member, said second visual element having an outer perimeter.

9. The wheel assembly of Claim 8, wherein:
said opening is a first opening,
said second member further defines a second opening having a second outer perimeter, and
said first outer perimeter of said first opening substantially aligns with said first outer perimeter of said first visual element, and said second outer perimeter of said second opening substantially aligns with said second outer perimeter of said second visual element in said home position.
10. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein:
said visual element is a first visual element, and
said wheel assembly further comprises a second visual element disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said first rotating member, said second visual element defining a second outer perimeter.
11. The wheel assembly of Claim 10, wherein:
said opening is a first opening,
said second member further define a second openings having a second outer perimeter, and
when said first rotating member and said second member are in said home position, said second outer perimeter of said second opening substantially aligns with said second outer perimeter.
12. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said visual element of said first rotating member includes themed indicia.
13. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first rotating member and said second member are mounted to rotate about a common axis.

14. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member is mounted, via a bearing, to rotate relative to said first rotating member.

15. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member is configured to rotate in unison with said first rotating member.

16. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, further comprising an aligning mechanism for maintaining said second member in said home position relative to said first rotating member.

17. The wheel assembly of Claim 16, wherein:
said aligning mechanism is configured to reduce the rotational speed of said second member thereby facilitating movement of said second member to said home position relative to said first rotating member.

18. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member is configured to maintain a substantially fixed radial orientation despite relative rotation of said first rotating member.

19. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first rotating member is weighted so that said first rotating member moves into said home position when said first member substantially stops rotating.

20. The wheel assembly of Claim 19, wherein said second member is weighted so that said second member moves into said home position when said second member substantially stops rotating.

21. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member is weighted so that said second member moves into said home position when said second member substantially stops rotating.

22. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member is configured to complement said visual element of said first rotating member thereby defining a themed appearance.

23. The wheel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said second member includes a complementary visual element adapted to complement the appearance of said visual element of said first rotating member.

24. The wheel assembly of Claim 23, wherein said complementary visual element is positioned centrally adjacent said second member.

25. A themed wheel assembly, comprising:
a wheel having an exterior surface;
a themed element having a perimeter, wherein said themed element is disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel;
a rotating member that is mounted to rotate adjacent said wheel, said rotating member being adapted to possess a themed appearance and further defining an opening having a perimeter, wherein said wheel and said rotating member are adapted to be moved between,
a first position wherein said perimeter of said opening does not substantially align with said perimeter of said themed element; and
a home position wherein said perimeter of said opening is substantially aligned with said perimeter of said themed element.

26. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein:
said themed element is a first themed element having a first perimeter, and
said themed wheel assembly further comprises a second themed element having a second perimeter disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel.

27. The wheel assembly of Claim 26, wherein:
said opening is a first opening having a first perimeter,
said rotating member further defines a second opening having a second perimeter,
and
when said wheel and said rotating member are in said home position, said second perimeter of said second opening substantially aligns with said second perimeter of said second themed element.

28. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said themed element is a first themed element having a first perimeter, and said themed wheel assembly further comprises a second themed element disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel, said second themed element defining a second perimeter.

29. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 28, wherein: said themed wheel assembly is adapted to resemble a loaded revolver-cylinder when said wheel and said rotating member are in said home position.

30. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said themed element is configured to resemble a firing end of a bullet.

31. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said wheel and said rotating member are mounted to rotate about a common axis.

32. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said rotating member is rotatably mounted, via a bearing, to rotate adjacent said wheel.

33. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said rotating member is configured to rotate in unison with said wheel.

34. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, further comprising an aligning mechanism affixed to said rotating member for maintaining said rotating member in said home position relative to said wheel.

35. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said rotating member is configured to maintain a fixed radial orientation despite a relative rotation of said wheel.

36. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 25, wherein said rotating member includes a complementary themed element provided to complement the appearance of said visual element of said wheel.

37. The themed wheel assembly of Claim 36, wherein said complementary themed element is positioned coaxially adjacent said rotating member.

38. A wheel assembly, comprising:

a wheel including an outer rim, an exterior surface, and a plurality of visual elements provided in a pattern adjacent said exterior surface between said centrally disposed mounting area and said outer rim, said plurality of visual elements being radially aligned and uniformly distributed adjacent said wheel;

a wheel spinner mounted to rotate relative to said wheel and further defining a plurality of openings configured to substantially mirror the pattern of said plurality of visual elements of said wheel; and

wherein said wheel and said wheel spinner are adapted to be rotated between a first position in which said plurality of openings do not substantially align with said plurality of visual elements, and a home position in which said plurality of openings are substantially aligned with said plurality of visual elements.

39. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein:

said plurality of visual elements comprises a first visual element and a second visual element.

40. The wheel assembly of Claim 39, wherein:

said plurality of openings comprises first opening and a second opening; and

when said wheel and said wheel spinner are in said home position, said second opening of said wheel spinner substantially aligns with said second visual element of said wheel.

41. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein at least one of said plurality of visual elements is configured to resemble a firing end of a bullet.

42. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said plurality of visual elements of said wheel includes themed indicia.

43. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said wheel and said wheel spinner are mounted to rotate about a common axis.

44. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said wheel spinner is mounted to rotate relative to said wheel via a bearing.

45. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said wheel spinner is configured to rotate in unison with said wheel.

46. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, further comprising an aligning mechanism for maintaining said wheel spinner in said home position.

47. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said aligning mechanism comprises an electromagnet.

48. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said wheel spinner includes a rotating axis and is weighted such that said wheel spinner moves into said home position in a substantially automatic manner when said wheel spinner substantially stops rotating.

49. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said wheel spinner includes a themed shape that is configured to complement said plurality of visual elements of said wheel thereby defining a themed appearance.

50. The wheel assembly of Claim 38, wherein said wheel spinner includes a complementary visual element adapted to complement said plurality of visual elements of said wheel.

51. The wheel assembly of Claim 50, wherein said complementary visual element is positioned centrally adjacent said wheel spinner.

52. A wheel spinner, comprising:

a substantially circular body having an interior surface, an exterior surface, an outer perimeter, a central mounting area, and a median region disposed between said outer perimeter and said central mounting area, said circular body defining: (A) a plurality of substantially circular openings that are substantially uniformly distributed about said median region of said body; and (B) a plurality of substantially semi-circular recesses disposed adjacent said outer perimeter of said body, each of said plurality of substantially semi-circular recesses being disposed substantially between adjacent openings; and

a bearing assembly mounted adjacent said central mounting area of said interior surface of said body.

53. A revolver-themed wheel assembly, comprising:
a wheel having an exterior surface;
a bullet indicia disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel; and
a second member mounted to rotate adjacent said wheel, said second member configured to resemble a revolver-cylinder by defining an opening having an outer perimeter, wherein said wheel and said second member are adapted to be moved between,

a first position in which said outer perimeter of said opening is not substantially aligned with said bullet indicia; and

a home position in which said outer perimeter of said opening is substantially aligned with said bullet indicia, thereby resembling a loaded revolver-cylinder.

54. The revolver-themed wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said bullet indicia includes first and second bullet indicia.

55. The revolver-themed wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein:
said bullet indicia is a first bullet indicia, and
said revolver-themed wheel assembly further comprises second and third bullet indicia disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel.

56. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein:
said bullet indicia is a first bullet indicia, and
said revolver wheel assembly further comprises second, third, fourth, and fifth bullet indicia disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel.

57. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein:
said opening is a first opening, and
said second member further defines a second opening.

58. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein:
said opening is a first opening, and
said second member further defines second and third openings.
59. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein:
said opening is a first opening, and
said second member further defines second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth openings.
60. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said wheel and said second member are mounted to rotate about a common axis.
61. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said second member is mounted to rotate relative to said wheel via a bearing.
62. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said second member is configured to rotate in unison with said wheel.
63. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, further comprising an aligning mechanism for orienting said second member into said home position relative to said wheel.
64. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said aligning mechanism comprises an electromagnet.
65. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said second member includes a rotating axis and a weighted portion for moving said second member into said home position when said second member substantially stops rotating.

66. The revolver wheel assembly of Claim 53, wherein said second member has a substantially circular shape and defines a plurality of substantially semi-circular recesses about a circumference of the second member.

67. A self-aligning wheel assembly, comprising:
a first rotating member having an exterior surface;
a visual element disposed adjacent said exterior surface of said first rotating member;
a second member mounted to rotate adjacent said first rotating member; said second member defining an opening having an outer perimeter; and
an aligning mechanism for selectively orienting said second member in a home position relative to said first rotating member.

68. The self-aligning wheel assembly of Claim 67, wherein:
said aligning mechanism is configured for moving said second member relative to said first rotating member between,
a first position wherein said outer perimeter of said opening does not substantially align with said outer perimeter of said visual element, and
a home position wherein said outer perimeter of said opening is substantially aligned with said outer perimeter of said visual element.

69. The self-aligning wheel assembly of Claim 67, wherein said first rotating member includes a rotating axis and wherein said aligning mechanism includes a first weighted portion affixed to said first rotating member such that said first rotating member moves into said home position when said first member substantially stops rotating.

70. The self-aligning wheel assembly of Claim 67, wherein said aligning mechanism comprises an electro-mechanical brake.

71. The self-aligning wheel assembly of Claim 67, wherein said aligning mechanism includes a lock for releasably coupling said second member to said first rotating member in said home position such that second member rotates in unison with said first rotating member.

72. A selectively-locking spinner assembly, comprising:
a wheel having an exterior surface;
a wheel spinner mounted to rotate adjacent said exterior surface of said wheel;
and
a locking mechanism for selectively maintaining said spinner substantially in a
pre-determined position relative to said exterior surface of said wheel.